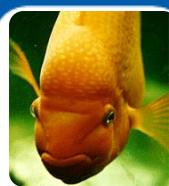
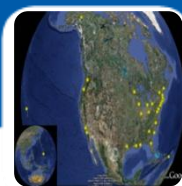


# National Sea Grant College Program



## CLIMATE CHANGE SERVICES FOR CITIZENS

### THE ISSUE

With global attention now focused on climate change, government agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and individual citizens are gearing up to face climate-related challenges. Although not all of the potential impacts of climate change are known, one thing is certain: its lasting effects will impact us all. **Sea level rise** and the threat of **inundation**, significant **reductions in Great Lakes water levels**, **drought**, **heat waves**, **reduced ice coverage**, **disruption of aquatic ecosystems**, and increased frequency and intensity of **coastal storms** are some of the impacts that may affect our coastal communities.

In light of these threats, Sea Grant is committed to improving the Nation's ability to understand, plan for, and respond to climate variability and change. As a dynamic link between

scientific information providers and information users, Sea Grant is well-positioned to lead innovative research and outreach programs, and to further the effectiveness of efforts by our federal, state, and local partners. Located within the communities it serves, Sea Grant is an integral and trusted resource for coastal residents and decision-makers.

### SEA GRANT WORKS TO:

**Improve understanding:** Help citizens and decision-makers understand climate change processes and the expected effects on coastal resources and communities.

**Increase capacity of coastal communities:** Identify viable strategies and formulate plans to prepare for, mitigate and adapt to these impacts.

**Respond to climate change:** Implement, evaluate, and adapt strategies and plans for responding to climate change.

### SEA GRANT BRINGS THESE UNIQUE ASSETS TO EMPOWER CITIZENS

- Conducts climate change research on locally-relevant scales
- Develops education/literacy programs on climate change impacts
- Identifies and addresses major stakeholder concerns
- Improves the relevance and accessibility of climate services to community decision-makers
- Integrates local climate change knowledge into planning
- Consolidates and disseminates best research-based practices to minimize impacts
- Develops localized adaptation strategies
- Conducts community demonstration projects to develop policies and adaptive actions
- Helps coastal communities identify new opportunities and adapt to changes
- Shares information regionally and nationally



# SEA GRANT IMPACTS: BALANCING HUMAN & ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS

This page is intentionally left blank for the state Sea Grant programs to insert the impacts they would like to highlight.

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